

INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

United States Department of Agriculture

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KILLING PROTECTED DUCKS COSTS 4 MONTHS IN JAIL

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For killing 35 redhead ducks -- to which he pleaded guilty -- Henry Herman Walters, of Fair Haven, Mich., has been sentenced to 4 months in jail and fined \$100 by Judge Edward J. Moinet in Federal court at Detroit, reports the U. S. Biological Survey.

Walters was apprehended last October with the ducks in his possession at a St. Clair river landing. He later admitted killing the birds and indicated that he intended to sell them. No hunting of redheads was permitted last year. U. S. Game Management Agent Robert Coppess and Michigan State Warden Varo B. Elliott made the arrest.

"This sentence", reports U. S. Game Management Agent Fred Brint, of Sylvania, Ohio, "should create a much desired effect in this district, as to the killing of restricted species, and it is my opinion that it will stop a great amount of commercial hunting."

Biological Survey officials in Washington say that Judge Moinet's example will emphasize the importance of dealing drastically with all willful violators of measures to protect less abundant species.

The redhead is one of the diving ducks with a breeding range that was largely within the drought-stricken region of recent years. Limited nesting opportunities and earlier overshooting led to drastic measures to protect these birds from extermination. All hunting of redheads, canvasbacks, buffleheads, and ruddy ducks has been prohibited for two years.

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Recent amendments to the Federal hunting regulations will make it legal for a hunter to include three birds from this entire group in his daily bag during this year's open season, a change adopted to allow for honest mistakes by those who occasionally fail to identify these birds before shooting. There is still a special need to protect these species, and sportsmen are urged to abstain from killing them.

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